The Homeless Christmas Angel

By
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STORY OF THE PLAY

When people say, Merry Christmas, do they really mean it? Most of the time, it's just something that's said, with no true feeling behind it.

But one angel, who remains comically nameless throughout the play, shows a small group of squabbling strangers what that phrase can really mean.

From a well-off but rude family to a stressed waitress at a café, and from some tense and terse bank customers to overworked employees, we see how thoughtless people can be as the holiday approaches. Through some heavenly intervention, they all end up at the home of a typical family whose struggles to make ends meet almost, but not quite, override their path to a Christian Christmas.

Together, these people eventually celebrate Christmas the way it is meant to be celebrated—with hope, compassion, and love for our fellow man, all through the efforts of a homeless Christmas angel.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4 m, 7 w, 2 male teens, 2 female teens, 2 boys)

DENNIS RUARK: Middle-aged man, well-off financially but tense.

LINDA: Dennis' wife, who becomes annoyed easily.

JESSICA: Their 13-year-old daughter; rude and mouthy.

CLAY: Their 12-year-old son; also rude and mouthy.

ALLIE: Waitress at a café. Newly widowed, chip on her shoulder.

RYAN: Café owner. Tries to keep it running smoothly.

MARTA: Early to mid-thirties, just wants to get money out of the bank for last-minute shopping.

JEFFERY: Martha's young son.

ABBIE: Bank teller, stressed in new job.

GRACE: Overworked bank manager.

SHANNON: Indecisive bank customer on a tight budget.

THOMAS STANTON: Father. Unhappy about the work and expense of his wife's annual Christmas buffet.

TINA: Thomas' wife. Likes to have a houseful of guests during the holidays. Does not share her husband's concerns.

LAIKEN: Their 16-year-old daughter.

CHRIS: Their 15-year-old son.

TYLER: Their 10-year-old son who has gotten into the spirit of the holiday by inviting his friend to dinner.

HOMELESS MAN: Narrates the story. Actually an angel.

SETTING

Most of the action takes place in the Stanton living room which features an exterior door, hallway to the rest of the home, and typical furniture as couch, a recliner chair, TV, etc. A Christmas tree is in one corner. The other two locations should be represented simply for ease of scene change. The café can be a table and four chairs with counter in the background. That same counter can be used for the bank by adding two computers. Use one of the café chairs for a chair at the bank.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: A café on Christmas Eve morning.
Scene 2: The bank a few hours later.
Scene 3: The Stanton living room, around lunch.
Scene 4: The Stanton living room, later that night.
Scene 5: The Stanton living room, Christmas morning.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: HOMELESS MAN enters and speaks directly to the audience.)

HOMELESS MAN: Hello! My name is …. Well I guess that isn't important right, now is it? Maybe I will tell you my name later on. I will tell you this much about me, I am homeless. Oh, by the way, Merry Christmas to everyone. Tonight we are going to get a glimpse of just how "merry" some folks make Christmas for others. You see, we all say Merry Christmas, but do we really mean it, or is it just something we say out of habit? After tonight I hope you will see what I am talking about. Let's pay a visit to the Happy Hearts Café. Surely this is a nice place to eat or visit.

(HE exits. CURTAIN opens or LIGHTS up to reveal the café. DENNIS is seated alone at the table, studying a menu. ALLIE enters. While it is obvious to us she has been crying, Dennis is totally unaware.)

ALLIE: *(Walking up to a table, downbeat.)* Hello, my name is Allie. What will you be having this morning?

DENNIS: I think I will have some biscuits and gravy, bac—

ALLIE: *(Writing on pad.)* Hold it there, mister … can't you see that I am still writing!

DENNIS: Well, yes I did, but I thought that being a waitress means that your memory was longer than that. *(HE waits a beat for any kind of response from her. There is none.)* May I continue now?

ALLIE: No one is stopping you, are they?

DENNIS: *(Irritated, speaks Very slowly.)* Bacon, two eggs, and some coffee. Did you get that or was I talking too fast for you?

ALLIE: Yeah I got it and you may get your breakfast before noon, too. Though I wouldn't count on it.

(JESSICA, CLAY, and LINDA enter and take a seat with DENNIS.)

ALLIE: You all with him? *(Points to DENNIS.)*
JESSICA: No. We just came in and sat down with a complete stranger and decided to let him buy us breakfast!!
CLAY: What do you think? Yes, we are with him.
ALLIE: I see rudeness runs in the family.
LINDA: Hey, don't talk to my kids that way! I'll handle them. And if you called my family rude, I can make your morning EXTREMELY miserable.
ALLIE: Well, if miserable is what you are working on, then you all have succeeded. Now, are you going to order or not?
LINDA: I would like to speak to the manager of this place.
ALLIE: *(Yells.)* RYAN!!!
RYAN: *(Enters left.)* Allie, what is all the yelling about? We have a lot of guests in here, can't you see?
ALLIE: Oh, I see all right.
RYAN: What can I do for you folks?
LINDA: *(Pointing to ALLIE.)* Where did you get her, at a rude bargain sale?
DENNIS: *(Laughs.)* Now, Linda, that isn't nice.
JESSICA: Well, Dad, she isn't nice to us.
ALLIE: Nice to you? It would take a saint to be nice to you people. You act like you have never been in a restaurant. Can't even place a simple breakfast order.
RYAN: Now … now … everyone calm down. Has everyone placed their order?
DENNIS: No, none of us have.
ALLIE: Excuse me!! What have I written down here if you haven't placed an order?
DENNIS: I have changed my mind.
RYAN: Will you please take their order and do it nicely? Now if you folks will excuse me, I was in the middle of something. *(Exits.)*
ALLIE: *(Rips the other order up and stuffs it into her pocket.) (Sarcastically.)* Hello. Can I take your order?
LINDA: I will have bacon, eggs—
DENNIS: Slow, honey, she isn't too quick.
ALLIE: *(Obviously annoyed, blows a bubble and pops it at HIM.)* I hope that you aren't expecting a warm breakfast.

End of Freeview

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